

Good morning:

Vice-President Biden, HHS Secretary Sebelius, and Dr. Blumenthal from ONC will be in Chicago today for a health reform event **where they will also announce the Regional HIT Extension Centers and State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement programs**. The grants include \$598 million to set up some 70 health information technology centers to help healthcare institutions acquire electronic health record systems and \$564 million to develop a nationwide system of health information networks.

The guidance is posted on grants.gov at the links below. As a reminder, the State of Vermont will be applying for the Sec. 3013 funding and VITL will likely be applying for Sec. 3012 funding.

Sec. 3013 funding:

[https://www.grantsolutions.gov/gs/servlet/document.DownloadPdfPublicServlet?document\\_id=112936](https://www.grantsolutions.gov/gs/servlet/document.DownloadPdfPublicServlet?document_id=112936)

Sec. 3012 funding:

[https://www.grantsolutions.gov/gs/servlet/document.DownloadPdfPublicServlet?document\\_id=112834](https://www.grantsolutions.gov/gs/servlet/document.DownloadPdfPublicServlet?document_id=112834)

Here are links to news stories about today's announcement:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE57J21J20090820>

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2009/August/20/IT-Grants.aspx>

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/homepage/story/74040.html>

Also, the attached invitation to participate in the Regional Extension Center Advisory Group was distributed last week but did not apparently make it to all addresses on my distribution list, so I'm resending it.

- Hunt

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